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News of the Theater

"The Teahouse of the August Moon," recent "Tony" winner as the season's outstanding play, has also been named by the Theatre Club, Inc., as best. The group's Prize Medal Award will be given to author John Patrick on April 27 at a Hotel Roosevelt luncheon, and a check will be presented to the Actors' Fund.

Elaine Perry, whose production of "King of Hearts" is off to an auspicious start at the Lyceum, has her eye on two projects for next season, "Anastasia," by Guy Bolton and Marcelle Maurette, and "Kean," based on Alexander Dumas' biographical drama of the famous actor. Miss Perry plans to co-star Lilli Palmer and Rex Harrison, her husband, in "Anastasia," which deals with a mysterious girl supposed to be the late Czar's youngest daughter.

Carol Channing, who spent over two years in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" on Broadway and touring, returned last night to succeed Rosalind Russell as the star of "Wonderful Town," the Winter Garden's hit musical. The supporting cast is still headed by Edith Adams and George Gaynes.

Jennie Goldstein, who scored a personal hit last year as the gypsy in "Camino Real," will be starred in "Welcome," a new comedy by Jeanette Kamins, next November. It will be produced by Mary B. Hecht, in association with Daniel S. Broun, and directed by Ronald Alexander, the author of "Time out for Ginger."

"The Golden Apple," which moves April 20 from the Phoenix to the Alvin, will be published by Random House . . . Play of the Month Guild members will attend tonight and tomorrow's preview of the Shirley Booth musical, "By the Beautiful Sea," which opens Thursday at the Majestic.

Dallas State Fair Musicals will open its season June 14 with Jack Benny heading a variety show for two weeks. The Texas schedule will include "Wish You Were Here," "Hazel Flagg," "Naughty Marietta," "Panama Hattie" and "Wonderful Town." The latter will mark the first time a Summer theater group has reproduced a musical current on Broadway.

Bucks County Playhouse in New Hope, Pa., will reopen May 29 with "The Moon Is Blue." Don Walker, Monte Proser and Howard Hoyt, who head the theater, have signed Michael Ellis as managing director. Following "Moon," Edna Best and Basil Rathbone will co-star in "The Cocktail Party," and Miss Best will appear in "The Time of the Cuckoo." Jerome Cowan has been signed for the entire season. An added attraction this year will be Mr. Proser's Playhouse Inn, adjoining the theater, a $300,000 project.

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